

“Serving Those Who Served”

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Vol. 6 Issue 1

WINTER 2005

Citizens Recognized for Service to Veterans

This Veterans Day, several Washington residents were honored as they received Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards for their contributions to Washington state’s veterans and their families during the last year.

2004 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE OFFICER



Stephen G. Prince

This year’s Outstanding Volunteer Service Officer was actually nominated by members of two different service organizations in the Tri-Cities area.

Steve is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the United

States Marine Corps and for years has continued serving his country and fellow veterans as a volunteer service officer. He is currently the Washington State Vietnam Veterans of America Vice-President.

Besides always being available for counseling to a Veteran in need, Steve can be found each week at the Pasco and Kennewick Senior Centers; the Kennewick WorkSource office and the Walla Walla State Penitentiary. Steve has also set up an office at his home where he welcomes veterans and their families needing assistance.

2004 OUTSTANDING VETERAN VOLUNTEERS

Michael and Jane Montaney

This year’s award goes to a husband and wife team, who together have spent countless hours volunteering their service to veterans through the American Legion.

Continued on page 4

King Appointed to CARES Subcommittee

WDVA Director John King was recently appointed as a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) local advisory subcommittee for the VA Walla Walla campus study. His appointment is effective immediately and will continue through December 2005, the expected expiration of the subcommittee.

The subcommittee is one of 17 subcommittees of the Advisory Committee for the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Business Plan Studies sites identified for additional study from the CARES Decision Document of May 2004.

The subcommittee will provide a public forum for the affected communities to develop recommendations at key steps in the study process.

“I am honored to assume this responsibility and look forward to receiving the input of the community during the next year,” said King. “That valuable information will assist greatly in determining the future for VA healthcare provisions for those veterans and their families who rely on the VA Walla Walla facility.”

State, federal and local partners pledge commitment to serve our state’s returning National Guard and Reserve soldiers

See story on page 6



Signers (R to L) Maj Gen Timothy J. Lowenberg, The Adjutant General/Director, WA Military Department; John M. King, Director, WA Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Sylvia P. Mundy, Commissioner, Employment Security Department; Thomas E. Pearson, WA State Director, Veterans' Employment and Training Service U.S. Department of Labor; Leslie M. Burger, MD, FACP, Network Director, VISN 20 Department of Veterans Affairs; Kristine A. Arnold, Director, Regional Office Department of Veterans Affairs; Don C. Brunell, President, Association of Washington Business; and Richard L. Marin, Chairman, Governor’s Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee.

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Veteran Voices

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To obtain this publication in an alternative format call (360) 725-2169.



John M. King, WDVA Director

Assisting Veterans Proactively

At WDVA, our mission is to "Serve Those Who Served", and each day, the employees of this agency strive to live up to that mission.

They assist with claims for benefits, they act as fiduciaries for those veterans unable to handle this task on their own, they care for the elderly and infirm at our three state Veterans Homes. Each day the WDVA staff provide a multitude of services necessary to honor the more than 670,000 veterans who call Washington home.

So, what makes this agency unique from other agencies?

First, a large number of the employees are veterans or have close family members who are veterans. On the battlefield, veterans pledged to help each other and that pledge does not go away just because the "soldier" has come home.

Second, there is an emotional tie that develops when there is daily contact with the amazing and diverse population that makes up the veteran's community.

The third reason is best described by Omar Bradley when he said, "We are dealing with veterans, not procedures – with their problems, not ours."

For many, the procedures to receive veteran's benefits – earned by serving their country – are often viewed as too complex. That's where the dedicated staff at WDVA excel because they treat each veteran as an individual, not a number. They have built partnerships with other organizations in an effort to provide the best services available for Washington's veterans.

Most importantly, they have embraced an opportunity to provide for the newest group of veterans serving today in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Approximately two out of every five U.S. service members currently serving in Iraq are activated Reserve and National Guard members. The transition for these new veterans and their families from military to civilian life will present a new challenge, but will be met with Washington assisting proactively, rather than reactively, as has sometimes been done in the past.

On November 5, a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Guard, WDVA, the Federal VA, Employment Security, Association of Washington Business and representatives of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee was signed at Camp Murray, in anticipation of the return of our newest veterans.

As these young men and women return home, the opportunity for communities, organizations and seasoned veterans to welcome them home is abundant. As leaders of our state's veteran community, you have the knowledge and ability to guide our newest generation of veterans toward our common mission of "Serving Those Who Served".

Alvarado-Ramos attends D.C. Veteran's Day Event

WDVA Assistant Director Alfie Alvarado-Ramos takes a photo opportunity with Secretary of State Colin Powell when she attended the Veteran's Day event in Washington D.C., representing the National Association of State Veterans Homes.

The second photo is of President Bush placing the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Visit the WDVA Web Site Often!
Find out about Public Events at:
www.dva.wa.gov/Events

List your special event by contacting Colleen Gilbert at:
colleen@dva.wa.gov
or 360-725-2180



Hire a Vet...It's Your Best Bet



The Jobs for Veterans act was signed into law on November 7, 2002, to revise and improve employment, training and placement services furnished to veterans.

The President's National Hire Veterans Committee, under the Secretary of Labor, was formed to address this issue, and has recently launched a new website that provides both employers and veterans with valuable information to benefit both.

The new Web site, www.hirevetsfirst.org, and the U.S. Department of Labor's Toll-Free Help Line 1-877-US2-JOBS (TTY: 1-877-889-5627) will refer employers and veterans to local One-Stop Career Centers for assistance.

10 Reasons to Hire Vets

1. Accelerated learning curve.

Veterans have the proven ability to learn new skills and concepts. In addition, they can enter your workforce with identifiable and transferable skills, proven in real world situations. This background can enhance your organization's productivity.

2. Leadership.

The military trains people to lead by example as well as through direction, delegation, motivation and inspiration. Veterans understand the practical ways to manage behaviors for results, even in the most trying circumstances. They also know the dynamics of leadership as part of both hierarchical and peer structures.

3. Teamwork.

Veterans understand how genuine teamwork grows out of a responsibility to one's colleagues. Military duties involve a blend of individual and group productivity. They also necessitate a perception of how groups of all sizes relate to each other and an overarching objective.

4. Diversity and inclusion in action.

Veterans have learned to work side by side with individuals regardless of diverse race,

gender, geographic origin, ethnic background, religion and economic status as well as mental, physical and attitudinal capabilities. They have the sensitivity to cooperate with many different types of individuals.

5. Efficient performance under pressure.

Veterans understand the rigors of tight schedules and limited resources. They have developed the capacity to know how to accomplish priorities on time, in spite of tremendous stress. They know the critical importance of staying with a task until it is done right.

6. Respect for procedures.

Veterans have gained a unique perspective on the value of accountability. They can grasp their place within an organizational framework, becoming responsible for subordinates' actions to higher supervisory levels. They know how policies and procedures enable an organization to exist.

7. Technology and globalization.

Because of their experiences in the service, veterans are usually aware of international and technical trends pertinent to business and industry. They can bring the kind of global outlook and technological savvy that

all enterprises of any size need to succeed.

8. Integrity.

Veterans know what it means to do "an honest day's work." Prospective employers can take advantage of a track record of integrity, often including security clearances. This integrity translates into qualities of sincerity and trustworthiness.

9. Conscious of health and safety standards.

Thanks to extensive training, veterans are aware of health and safety protocols both for themselves and the welfare of others. Individually, they represent a drug-free workforce that is cognizant of maintaining personal health and fitness. On a company level, their awareness and conscientiousness translate into protection of employees, property and materials.

10. Triumph over adversity.

In addition to dealing positively with the typical issues of personal maturity, veterans have frequently triumphed over great adversity. They likely have proven their mettle in mission critical situations demanding endurance, stamina and flexibility. They may have overcome personal disabilities through strengths and determination.

Women Honored for Achievements

Alfie Alvarado-Ramos honored with a lifetime achievement award

The YWCA of Olympia honored 11 Women of Achievement recently, in a festive ceremony at Indian Summer Golf and Country Club in Olympia.

"If you believe strongly enough in what it is you are standing up for, regardless of what it is, you stand up for it," said Grethe Cammermeyer, who had a successful but sometimes contentious career in the U.S. military. "Live your truth. Know who you are. Believe in yourself and you will rise to whatever occasion. I thank you all for your excellent work."

State Sen. Karen Fraser, who has been in public office for more than 31 years, was the keynote speaker of the evening and was honored as the 2004 Woman of Distinction.

Lourdes "Alfie" Alvarado-Ramos was honored with a lifetime achievement award for her successful career in health care and human resources in the military.

Alvarado-Ramos, a 21-year Army veteran who retired from active duty in 1993 as command sergeant major of Madigan Army Medical Center, is now assistant director for agency operations at the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.

Among her peers she is known for her professionalism and solution-minded management skills, according to a YWCA nomination statement. "(She is) a team player who strongly believes in mentoring and enabling others to think and act."

Others honored were: - Cmdr. C.J. "Cindy" Talbert - Grethe Cammermeyer - Claudia Clark-Engstrom - Laurie Heinz - Rose Bailey - Jan Norman - Gretchen Schodde - Cherish Gallegos - Doni Lupo - State Sen. Karen Fraser.

Statewide Resource Book Now Available for Incarcerated Veterans

Not very many programs can say their goal is to ensure their clients never come back. However, this is exactly the goal of service providers who work with incarcerated veterans. A group of providers from the Veterans Integrated Service Network 20, Walla Walla VA Medical Center, Vietnam Veterans of America, Department of Corrections, Walla Walla WorkSource Office and WDVA, recently produced a handbook for incarcerated veterans. The book contains numerous resources aimed at providing assistance to not only the veteran, but the family members they may be reuniting with.

However, the booklet is meant to be more than just a list of organization names and phone numbers.

For veterans, it can become a tool, complete with outlines, questions, and tips on where to turn. The goal of the service providers who developed it, is to help veterans focus on issues they'll need to deal with prior to their release, including checklists for housing, employment, addictions treatment and health care benefits. It also contains tips on writing letters and contacting organizations by phone.

Other efforts throughout Washington State have demonstrated that veterans who receive outreach services and counseling to deal with the issues that led to their incarceration, are far less likely to re-offend. Not only does the veteran and their family benefit by getting their lives back on track, but our communities are safer and fewer tax dollars are spent on jails.

If you would like a copy of "A Guidebook for Incarcerated Veterans", you can download it at: www.dva.wa.gov, under Publications. Or contact Ric Price, WDVA Veterans Reintegration Services Program Manager at (206) 296-7569.

Service Awards continued



Michael and Jane Montaney.

Mike is the past State Department Commander for the American Legion and Jane is the past District President for the ladies auxiliary.

A statewide effort we know as

“Adopt an Armory” Program, was copied from the model that Mike and Jane developed for the National Guard Armory in Ephrata, where, because of them, National Guard members and their families have found they are not alone.

This outstanding program provides National Guard members and their families with service officer accessibility; it provides assistance to families when the spouse is deployed, such as childcare, home and auto repairs, financial support and friendship; and includes planning and conducting ceremonies and memorials.

Both Mike and Jane know firsthand the importance of community taking care of the members of our National Guard, because they have a daughter serving her country in the Army National Guard, currently recovering from injuries received in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

2004 OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE

Sam Mack



Program – DVOP’s and LVER’s.

One of our many important partnerships is with Employment Security through their Disabled Veteran Outreach Program and Local Veterans Employment Representative

This year, we honor a retired veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Sam has worked at the Lakewood Affiliate of Employment Security for more than 12 years, where as the LVER, he is responsible for providing employment services to veterans in the Lakewood community, McChord AFB, American Lake VAMC and Fort Lewis.

He is instrumental in providing outreach veterans services to the inmates at McNeil Island Correctional Facility and is active with the African American Post Traumatic Stress Disorder organization and volunteers regularly with the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 186 in the correction facility.

Sam is one of the primary leads with the Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program to provide former felons with employment services and transition to outside life.

Those who partner with him agree he is exceptional and a leader among his associates.

2004 OUTSTANDING SERVICE OFFICER

Robert and Inge Cruze

This year we are fortunate to be able to honor another husband and wife team, who have gone above and beyond for Washington’s veterans.

Bob began as a VFW volunteer post service officer in Sept. 2003, and within a few weeks, he was putting in more than 40 hours a week providing services to veterans in the Vancouver area.

There was such a dramatic increase in the number of claims coming in from the



(L to R) WDVA Director John King; Inge and Robert Cruze; and VAAC Chairman Richard Marin.

Vancouver area that the VFW Department Service Director in the Seattle VA Regional office started monitoring the claims. When it was discovered that Bob was completing well-developed claims and was the highest contributor of claims outside the Seattle VFW office, he was asked to become part of the VFW Department of Washington Service Team. As an accredited Service Officer, he continues to be the leading producer of VFW claims in the state of Washington, averaging 100 claims per month.

Inge works as tirelessly as Bob, making numerous trips throughout the southern part of the state to make home-visits with veterans too disabled to leave their homes or care facilities. She was instrumental in establishing the Last Wish Fund at the Vancouver VA Medical Center, which is dedicated to the assistance of veterans and their families, when the veteran is in the VA’s Terminal Hospice.

Recently, Inge’s Last Wish Fund was able to pay the travel costs to bring a young girl from the Midwest to Vancouver to visit her dying grandfather – that veteran’s last wish.

2004 OUTSTANDING MALE NON-VETERAN

Lee T. Grimes

More than 10 years ago, after participating in July 4th veterans programs at his



church, Lee began his quest to find a way of ensuring veterans and their sacrifices would not be forgotten.

He and his wife Barbara, whose son Jeffrey is a U.S. Navy veteran, made plans to open a museum to honor veterans when they retired.

Lee started interviewing veterans in the community and collecting artifacts that quickly filled up his garage and a room in his home.

As WWII veterans started passing away at an alarming rate, taking their history with them, Lee and Barbara, along with another couple, Lauren and Patti Estep, decided there wasn’t time to wait for retirement, so 8 years ago the Veterans Memorial Museum opened its doors at 712 West Main St. in Centralia.

For the past eight years, the museum has grown and expanded, providing veterans with a place to tell their stories and to be honored at annual events. It has provided students with a place to learn about their freedom and it has provided families with a place to take their loved ones artifacts for safekeeping. And the museum has outgrown its location.

After three years of fundraising and hard work, the Veterans Memorial Museum will be moving to its new building at 100 Veterans Drive in Chehalis.

In a poem written by Lee, the last line is “Who will remember? Will it be only those who were there?”

Thanks to the vision of Lee Grimes, generations to come will remember.

Not just those who were there.

2004 OUTSTANDING FEMALE NON-VETERAN



(L to R) WDVA Director John King; Dr. Bridget Cantrell; and VAAC Chairman Richard Marin.

Dr. Bridget Cantrell

Dr. Cantrell, a Psychologist specializing in the treatment of PTSD, has been a WDVA PTSD Program Contractor for the past five years.

Prior to being awarded her Ph.D., she conducted extensive confidential research with WDVA volunteer clients about the needs of war veterans in King County and throughout Washington State.

Her work has proven to be beneficial to the department and its ongoing effort to understand the needs of veterans now and in the future.

During her partnership with WDVA, Dr. Cantrell has seen more veterans and family members than any other PTSD Program

Service Awards continued

provider, with client satisfaction ratings among the highest in the program.

A strong advocate for war traumatized veterans, she is also a leader in the areas of military sexual trauma on a state, national and international level. Her tireless determination on behalf of veterans has led to benefits being received and lives being improved.

Most recently, Dr. Cantrell has been involved with the American Red Cross and other civic organizations to create support on behalf of the families of deployed Washington State National Guard and military reservists. She sees both family members struggling with deployment, and those now returning from Iraq.

2004 OUTSTANDING YOUTH PATRIOTIC SERVICE AWARD



(L to R) WDVA Director John King; Cary Collins; Todd Baker; and VAAC Pres. Richard Marin.

Tahoma Junior High School

Accepting on behalf of the school – Cary Collins and Todd Baker – teachers at Tahoma Junior High School.

Several years ago, a series of vandalisms at the Tahoma National Cemetery took place.

Many people expressed outrage about the acts, including Washington History teacher Todd Baker.

So, he developed a plan to teach the kids at Tahoma Junior High School to honor and respect the cemetery and what it stood for.

With the help of the whole school, a fundraising campaign began to raise the money to purchase flags for the more than 12,000 graves at the cemetery.

They held class contests, involved family members, and the donations starting coming in. They came from churches, Veterans Groups, spouses of deceased veterans and the students themselves. They raised enough to not only buy the flags needed now, but also to continue purchasing them as more are needed.

This last Memorial Day, ½ of the 520 ninth graders at Tahoma Junior High School spent the Friday before Memorial Day putting the flags on each and every grave at the cemetery. Then, the day after Memorial Day, they returned to gather them back up to be stored for the next Memorial Day.

In addition, ½ of this years ninth grade class spent time the day before Veteran's Day helping to make sure the cemetery looked its best for visitors on November 11, and next Spring, the other half of the class will be back out before Memorial Day to once again place and later remove the flags.

This program, besides teaching students an important lesson about the price of freedom, has seventh and eighth graders looking forward to the time they will be allowed to honor veterans at the Tahoma National Cemetery.

2004 SPECIAL AWARD OF MERIT

William "Bill" Bishop

Mr. William (Bill) Bishop has served as Washington's liaison to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi with distinction for the last three and one half years. Bill is responsible for seven states, but has made numerous visits to Washington State during his tenure. Bill's primary responsibility is to be the "eyes and ears" for the Secretary and to work with state and local governments and veterans service organizations on all matters pertaining to services for veterans and their families.

Bill Bishop has worked tirelessly on behalf of the veterans of Washington State on issues ranging from improving coordination and communication between VA offices here and in Washington D.C. and communication between VSOs and the VA - providing better results for veterans pursuing disability compensation claims. Bill has also conducted several town hall meetings in



(L to R) VA Reg. Dir. Kristine A. Arnold; Bill Bishop; VA Deputy Dir. Frank Pierce; and WDVA Deputy Dir. John Lee.

both eastern and western Washington focusing on customer service, delivery of VA health care and disability claims services.

Bill Bishop is a true veterans advocate. His dedication to public service, compassion for veterans and their families, and deep and abiding respect for his country have all contributed to the success of WDVA.

The awards - co-sponsored each year by the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) and WDVA - recognize individuals who devote time and energy to improving the lives of Washington's veteran community.

The honorees were presented their awards during a luncheon at the Truitt Building following the annual Auburn Veterans Day Parade on November 6th.

Nomination forms for next year's awards can be obtained from the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs by calling (360) 725-2153.

*Attend a Veterans
Affairs Advisory
Committee Meeting
near you!*

*Check the VAAC
meeting schedule on
the web at
[www.dva.wa.gov/
Events](http://www.dva.wa.gov/Events)*



The seven member HVRP Project Team members are: Alex Deluao, Ric Price, Dennis Brown, Barbara Logan, Steve Gill, Michelle McMeel and Jim Rising. The awards were presented by Dr. Sylvia P. Mundy, Commissioner of ES; Charles Sadler, Regional Director, West Region; Rosendo "Alex" Cuevas, Regional Administrator Veterans Employment and Training Services, Region X (DOL - VETS); and Tom Pearson, Director of Veterans Employment and Training Services (DOL - VETS).

HVRP Team Selected for Veterans Incentive Award

The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) Project Team recently received the Veterans Incentive Award. The presentation was made at the Sheraton in Tacoma during the Employment Security Veterans Employment Services conference on Thursday, November 4, 2004.

The HVRP Project Team has made an outstanding effort to provide homeless veterans with employment and training services from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. They have established an exemplary outreach network with homeless providers in Puget Sound.

HVRP Team members achieved significant results in providing services to homeless, minorities, special disabled and economically disadvantaged veterans.

"Assistance with disability applications is a core value of our Veterans Benefit Specialists", said Program Manager Jim Rising.

Partners Pledge Commitment to Serve State's Returning National Guard and Reserve Soldiers

Today, thousands of our state's citizen soldiers are deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom – either through the Washington Army and Air National Guard or the U.S. Reserve Forces.

In Washington State, leaders from federal and state government, as well as leaders in our veteran's community, are seizing the opportunity to provide services to these citizen soldiers when they return.

On November 5, 2004, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by state, federal and local partners pledging their commitment to serve our state's returning National Guard and Reserve soldiers.

The agreement will enhance transition services already available to returning soldiers through the federal government by focusing on "after active duty" support to the thousands of members of the Washington National Guard mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

WDVA worked with the Washington National Guard, Washington Employment Security Department, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, Association of Washington Business and the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, to craft the MOU. A committee of representatives from each of these groups plus representatives of other veteran organizations, worked together to identify how we can best serve the needs of our returning National Guard and Reserve soldiers.

Returning soldiers are often so eager to see their families and return to civilian life that initial information packets are often overlooked.

"This partnership will provide an opportunity to stay in touch with these young men and women at critical intervals,

as well as letting them know the State of Washington appreciates their sacrifice and stands ready to provide assistance to them and their families," said WDVA Director John King.

Already, the MOU has resulted in increased awareness of partnering opportunities between agencies. Federal VA Puget Sound Health Care System VHA-DOD Liaisons, Linda Gillespie-Gateley and Dawn Brumfield provide an array of services to veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Services have always been tailored to the unique needs of the veteran. What the MOU will do is bring community partners in from the beginning and allow them to share their areas of expertise," said Gillespie-Gateley. Brumfield added, "We're committed to locating the right service at the right time and will rely not only on our internal experts, but those in our surrounding communities as well."

The MOU outlines family support services, a plan for Washington's Armories to be "adopted" by veterans organizations, and identifies mental health services available for both the soldier and their family.

Family Activity Days will be held within three to six months after returning from Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle.

"The Family Activity Day provides service members and their families personalized customer service in understanding and filing for Veteran's benefits and entitlements," said Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg, The Adjutant General, Washington National Guard.

The agreement also ensures that all Washington National Guard and Reserve veterans receive a letter from the Governor, the Adjutant General and the Director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs welcoming them home and providing



LT Gov. Brad Owen personally hands out "Welcome Home letters" from the Governor, to recently returned soldiers, during the MOU signing ceremony.

information to access VA health care, claims assistance, employment services and mental health services.

When soldiers return home after extended deployments, one of their top priorities is often returning to work. For those who experience difficulty in this transition, the Association of Washington Business is developing initiatives for employers and returning soldiers to make smooth transitions into civilian employment. The first initiative is to show support for the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) by recognizing companies that are going above and beyond in providing employment and assistance to the state's citizen soldiers. The second initiative is aimed at developing employment opportunities to the servicemen and women who are disabled as a result of their service.

"The Association of Washington Business is excited to be a part of this MOU," said Don Brunell, president of the Association of Washington Business. "As businesses, we share in the responsibility of supporting those men and women in our communities who have sworn to protect our nation. It is simply the right thing to do."

If you know a citizen soldier or member of their family in need of these services, please encourage them to call: Olympia Service Center 1-800-562-2308 or Seattle Service Center 1-877-249-0516



Lt. Col (P) Mary Forbes was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from VAAC Chairman Richard Marin and WDVA Director John King, for exceptional achievement in providing leadership and staff support to the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Subcommittee on Guard and Reserve. Her individual contributions in completing the Memorandum of Understanding have strengthened partnerships and emphasized the importance of providing comprehensive services to returning National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

MOU Committee

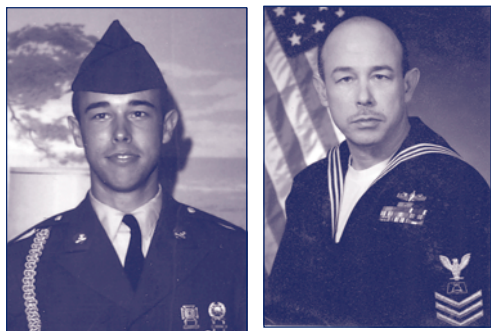
The following people were instrumental in the construction of this MOU:

Bill Schrier	VAAC American Legion Rep.	Franklin Pierce	Asst. Director, VA Regional Office
Rob Ramsey	Team Leader, Tacoma Vet Center		US Department of Veteran's Affairs
Dennis Primoli	VAAC & VLC	Walt Langer	National Service Officer, VFW
John Lee	WDVA Deputy Director	Jim Arrington	U.S. Department of Labor
Mary Jo Cahill	VAAC American Red Cross Rep.	Mary Forbes, LTC	J1 & HRO
Frank Hensley	VAAC MOAA Rep.	Robert Barnes, MD	Associate Director Mental Health
Cyndee Baugh	WDVA		
Gene Finney	OIF/OEF Liaison, VA Regional Office - VBA	Miles Mcfall, Ph.D	PTSD Program Dir. VA PSHCS
Angela Rivera	Air National Guard Family Readiness Coordinator	Linda Gillespie-Gateley	Veteran Health Admin.
Vicki Bishop	Statewide Veteran Services Coord.	John Tuohy, COL	Joint Chief of Staff
Marie Brillante	Director Employment Services	Thomas Schumacher	WDVA PTSD Program Dir.
	Employment Security Department	LTC Diane Williams	State Family Program Officer
Dawn Brumfield	Veterans Health Administration	Michele Klevens	Deployment Health Clinic, PSHC
Bill Graham	WA National Guard, Military Funeral Honors Coordinator	George Edmundson	VAAC VVA Rep.

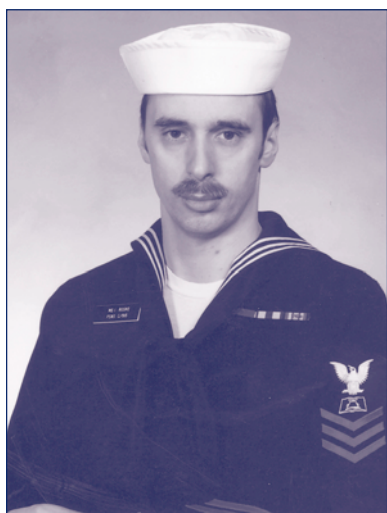
In The Spotlight

“Serving Those Who Served” takes on new meaning when the service provider and recipient share a similar background. At the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, the number of employees who are veterans ranks high, providing a personal connection with clients not always achieved in other agencies.

In an effort to introduce these dedicated employees, WDVA will highlight a different veteran/employee each issue.



Terry Reynolds - Army and Navy



Vern Roski - Navy



Terry Reynolds and Vern Roski - Food Service Dept. - Retsil.



Stanley Kajmama now and while in the Navy.



This issue, WDVA is privileged to highlight seven veterans who are all a part of the Washington Veterans Home Food Services Department, under the leadership of dietary manager Theresa Stanton-Grose.

Terry L. Reynolds served in the U.S. Army from 1975 to 1979, and then served in the U.S. Navy from 1982 until retirement in 1998. His most memorable time in the service was spent at an Alaska Wilderness Survival course and Panama Jungle training.

Jeffrey P. Howard served in the U.S. Army from 1974 to 1977, and then served in the U. S. Navy from 1980 to 1982. While serving in Germany, his most memorable service time was spent touring Asia.

Ernie Brown spent 21 years in the U.S. Army, retiring as a Staff Sgt. in Aug. of this year. He was a food service specialist and a BRM instructor, and the most memorable time during his years of service were fighting forest fires in 1988.

Vernon LeRoy Roske spent 20 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring in 1995 as a Mess Management Specialist with the rank of Master Sgt. While stationed aboard the USS Ranger, his most memorable service time was running into a Libertine oil tanker.

Donald L. Coursey retired in 2000 from the U.S. Navy after spending 24 years as a Chief Mess Specialist. The six months he was able to spend in Egypt during his service were his most memorable, as he was able to visit the Pyramids, boat on the Nile River, snorkel in the Red Sea and hike up Mt. Sinai.

Steven R. Lider retired from the U.S. Army as a Master Sgt, where he served as a field artillery surveyor and cook. He considers the time he served in Germany as his most memorable. Today, Steve continues to serve in the Reserves.

Stanley S. Kajmama retired from the U.S. Navy after serving 22 years as a Senior Chief Mess Management Specialist. His most memorable time in the service was receiving 2nd place – for the entire Navy – for the Best Mess in Food Service Excellence while serving on the USS Kansas City on deployment to the Persian Gulf.

While all seven of these veterans had diverse duties and responsibilities during their time serving their country, their reasons for being at the Washington Veterans Home - as part of the same team - are so similar that only one response needs to be written here: They all enjoy the opportunity to work with the residents, enjoy their co-workers, and make a great team of “Veterans Serving Veterans”.



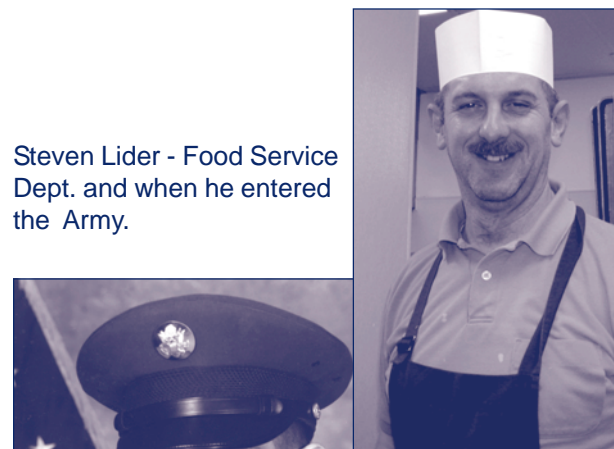
Donald Coursey entering the Navy.



Ernie Brown conducting grenade training with a ROTC Cadet.



Don Coursey, Jeff Howard and Ernie Brown in the kitchen at the Veterans Home.



Steven Lider - Food Service Dept. and when he entered the Army.



Washington State Veterans Homes

Public Honors Residents During Veteran's Day Holiday

At the Veterans Home in Retsil, the Bremerton High School Jr. ROTC began the program with the presentation of colors and pledge of allegiance.

WDVA Director John King offered remarks and Chaplain Ron Hemple provided the invocation.

Soloist Megan McCormic sang "America the Beautiful" and "Wind Beneath My Wings".

The Veteran's Day Address was given by Fred Delaney, US Army retired.

A "God Bless America" solo was performed by Charity Sanoy-Walthrop.

The Benediction was given by Chaplain Sharon Wheaton, LTjg; United States Navy.

Assisting residents to and from the program were volunteers from Bangor Naval Dental Clinic. In addition, a group of Navy personnel and their families visited with residents prior to the program.

The Puget Sound Navy Shipyard staff and active duty Navy personnel completed a huge gardening project, along with the Kitsap Master Gardeners. After they finished their project, they were treated to a chili-dog feed in the activity building.

During Orting's Veteran's Day Program in Chilson Hall, the Presentation of Colors was performed by the McChord Air Force Base Honor Guard.

Superintendent Jon Clontz welcomed the audience and was the MC during the program.



WDVA Director John King; Fred Delaney, US Army Ret.; and Jerry Towne, WVH Superintendent.



Kitsap Master Gardeners and PSNS team up for a gardening project at the Retsil home.



McChord Air Force Base Honor Guard.



Local Boy Scouts came to assist residents to and from the Soldiers Home program.



US Navy Commander, Carl Byron Forkner.



4th and 5th graders from Finch Elementary in Spokane sang songs and visited with residents.

Senator Marilyn Rasmussen and Director John King also greeted the audience.

Associate Superintendent David DeVore introduced United States Navy Commander, Carl Byron Forkner, who gave the keynote address.

CDR Forkner was aboard the USS CARL VINSON as Combat Direction Center Officer and Integrated Training Team Coordinator the day after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. They were poised off the coast of Pakistan planning the nation's response and training for Operation Enduring Freedom. He currently serves as Chief Operations Support; Chief, Battle Staff; and Senior Naval Officer, as well as standing watch as Duty Director of Operations in the Sector operations Command Center.

The Puyallup Community Band played "God Bless America" and several Boy Scouts attended to assist residents to and from the program.

At the Spokane Veterans Home, the 141st Air Refueling Wing, ANG presented the Colors. Kathy Magonigle, SVH Administrator welcomed the audience. Chaplain Richard Kelly gave the Invocation and Doug Jones from VFW Post 51, read the Governor's Veteran's Day Proclamation.

The keynote address was delivered by Command Chief Master Sergeant Craig Weddle, 141st Air Refueling Wing, Washington Air National Guard, Fairchild AFB. He serves as an advisor to the Wing Commander on enlisted force issues.

A brass quartet from the 560th ANG Band of the Northwest played the musical selections.

Residents and guests were treated to a barbecue lunch following the program.

Finch Elementary 5th and 6th graders also visited the home and entertained the veterans in honor of Veteran's Day.



Girl Scouts delivered handmade greeting cards to the residents at the Spokane Veterans Home.

Washington State Veterans Homes



Soldiers Home Says Goodbye to Bodah, and Wishes Him Well

George Bodah has been a resident at the Soldiers Home for 11 years. He served as Resident Council Chairman several times for a total of six years during his stay. George also served on the Governor’s Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee as the Soldiers Home representative for four years.

George has always been an advocate for the homes and veterans who live there. He was instrumental in getting a larger Activities area for the nursing buliding, and helped get computers with internet access in all the resident living quarters. He also promoted activity trips and meal outings.

George has moved to an apartment in Auburn. He was able to do this because he is now receiving full VA benefits.

He says he will keep in touch and visit as much as possible. He plans to get a wheelchair van and wants to join the Pierce County Veterans Association to continue supporting the homes and WDVA.

He will be missed by all.



Women Bowlers Donate to Activity Program



(L to R) President Carolee Tighe; VP Corrie Hallam; Director (Chairman BVL Committee) Kathy Pemberto; and Director Lara Hacker. In the back are Supt. Jon Clontz and Assoc. Supt. David DeVore.

The Tacoma Women's Bowling Association presented the Washington Soldiers Home a donation from the Bowlers to Veterans Link in the amount of \$914. Founded in 1942, the Bowlers to Veterans Link is supported throughout the bowling industry and has raised more than \$33 million to develop and sustain recreational and therapeutic programs and activities for veterans recuperating in VA Hospitals or receiving care at Vet Centers or in State Veterans Homes.

Master Plan Update #20

“ **Relocation & Removal of Temporary Buildings:** The activity and cashiers trailers have been moved off site to make room for construction of the sidewalk and parking lot behind the kitchen. Activities has been relocated to the former Snack Bar area.

“ **Main Building Construction:** “Retsil Square” is now formed. The walkways between several buildings are complete as well as the rockery walls in the courtyards on the back of these areas. Four wings will begin punch-list reviews, while construction continues in four other wings. The “spine” of the building is almost completely sheet-rocked. All elevators are installed.

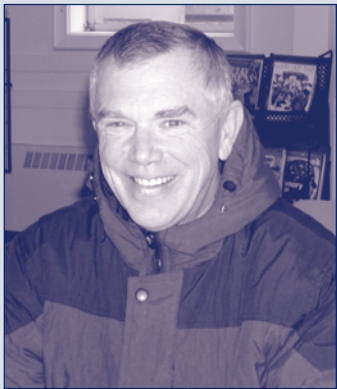


“ **Staff & Visitor Tours:** Tours are being conducted on a regular basis. Please contact the Administration Office if you would like to arrange a visit: (360) 895-4700. Tours are subject to safety requirements and size limits.

“ **Getting Involved:** Now is an exciting time in our Homes' History! If you would like to get involved, visit us on-line, give us a call, or arrange a visit. You can also contribute through a special donation account, established by the veterans at Retsil, to purchase courtyard furniture that will allow veterans to enjoy the great outdoors - in their own backyard!

Street Talk

With the WA Veterans Home Residents at Retsil What is the best gift you ever gave someone?



“In 6th grade, I made banana nut bread for the class; I gave yarn to my nieces so they could learn to knit; I gave a friend a guitar to give to his daughter.”
Gary Mason



“I gave my daughter to her mother. One time I made my mom peanut butter cookies – I trashed the kitchen and it took about 5 hours to make them.”
Mark Schanck



“My counselor lived in a really rough neighborhood. He let me stay with him for a long time, so I bought him a 45 automatic Colt revolver for protection.”
Vance E. Fiske



“I got my mom a rosary in Rome that was carved like grapes.”
Wally Peake



“I got my three girls a little Radio Flyer wagon that they loved. It took a couple of hours to put it together.”
Bob Haynes.

EDITOR’S NOTE: The best gift these veterans have given is the freedom all Americans are recipients of.



National Notes



Federal Legislation

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 became Public Law No: 108-375 on October 28, 2004. The bill title is: To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. Below is a summary of provisions of interest to veterans. (There are many additional provisions that can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>)

Retired Pay and Survivor Benefits - (Sec. 641) Provides a special rule for computing the high-36 month compensation average for disabled members of the reserves for purposes of retired pay calculation.

(Sec. 642) Repeals the current phase-in (lasting until December 31, 2004) of the concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 100 percent (thereby allowing immediate full payment of both).

(Sec. 643) Requires the Secretary to expedite completion of a study of Federal death benefits for survivors of members of the Armed Forces.

(Sec. 644) Increases the annuities paid under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) to survivors of military retirees who are age 62 or older from the current 35 percent of the military retired pay of the member to: (1) 40 percent, for months after September 2005 and before April 2006; (2) 45 percent, for months after March 2006 and before April 2007; (3) 50 percent, for months after March 2007 and before April 2008; and (4) 55 percent, for months after March 2008. Makes corresponding adjustments under the SBP supplemental annuity program. Requires the recalculation of SBP annuities when the SBP percentages are increased. Eliminates the requirement that participating retirees continue to pay premiums for supplemental SBP coverage.

(Sec. 645) Allows an eligible retired or former member to elect to participate in the SBP and supplemental SBP during the one-year open enrollment period beginning on October 1, 2005. Allows, also during such period, a person currently participating in the SBP or supplemental SBP, but not at the maximum amount, to increase their participation amount. Voids any election made by a person who

dies within a two-year period after such election. Requires the Secretary to prescribe an additional premium for the additional coverage under this section.

Health Care Provisions – (Sec. 701) Authorizes coverage under TRICARE for members of the Selected Reserve who complete active-duty service under a call or order to active duty of more than 30 days on or after September 11, 2001, if the member: (1) served continuously on active duty for 90 or more days pursuant to such call or order; and (2) on or before the release from such duty, enters into an agreement with the Secretary concerned to serve continuously in the Selected Reserve for one or more years following such active duty. Provides such members one year of TRICARE coverage for each 90 consecutive days of extended active-duty service so performed. Terminates any remaining coverage upon termination of Selected Reserve service. Requires a monthly premium for such coverage.

(Sec. 703) Makes permanent (currently terminates on December 31, 2004) the special TRICARE benefits early-eligibility date for reserve personnel who are issued delayed-effective-date active-duty orders.

(Sec. 704) Authorizes the Secretary to waive deductible payments required by certain TRICARE programs for dependents of certain reserve or National Guard personnel called or ordered to active duty for more than 30 days (currently, less than one year).

(Sec. 705) Authorizes the Secretary to pay additional amounts billed by health care providers in the case of services provided to a dependent of a reserve member ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation.

(Sec. 706) Entitles members separated from active duty, and the dependents of such members, to medical and dental care through DOD for 180 days following the member's separation. (Currently, such transitional care is available for up to 120 days, depending upon the length of active-duty service prior to separation.) Directs the Secretary concerned to require each such member to undergo a comprehensive physical examination immediately before such separation (with an examination waiver for members who have undergone a physical within 12 months of such separation).

A MESSAGE TO ALL VA EMPLOYEES FROM SECRETARY PRINCIPI

December 8, 2004

For me, time committed to the service of others, working shoulder-to-shoulder with capable and committed coworkers, is the most important attribute of a life well lived. For the past 46 months I have been privileged to share with you our stewardship of VA's mission of service to veterans. I am humbled to have worked side-by-side with you, the men and women who bring VA to life, as you demonstrated every day an all encompassing commitment to our mission and documented your skills in the changed lives of the veterans we serve. Our mission is profoundly satisfying, and you earned your place in the first rank of competence and compassion.

You rose to, and surmounted, the repeated challenges of our critical mission; overcoming changing circumstances and unexpected difficulties. I stand in awe of the long hours, diligent attention to the highest standards, and commitment to constant improvement that defined our Department over the past four years. Your record, in both our operating Administrations and our staff offices, is written in the text of increased access to ever higher quality healthcare, improved delivery of benefits and services, and the national shrines defining our cemetery system. Your work illuminates the finest in public service and I know that whatever praise I hear of our Department was earned through your effort.

I depart VA to take on new responsibilities and challenges moved by the service of the veterans we have been privileged to serve; and inspired by you, the men and women who serve them. Thanks to you, the past 46 months define a chapter in my career and life, as well as for our Department, that must be marked down as "well-lived". I thank you for what you achieved and I am confident that you will continue to build on your record of success and service. Thanks to you, I will be proud to answer to the title of "former VA employee".

For the future, I wish you fair winds and following seas and I wish you well.

Thank you, Anthony J. Principi

Veterans' New ID Cards Help Battle Identity Theft

WASHINGTON – With identity theft as the major fraud reported by Americans in 2003, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has designed a new identity card for veterans that will safeguard confidential information.

“The new identification card ensures veterans’ personal information is protected,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. “It also helps prevent the theft of important benefits and services from veterans that they earned by their service to our country.”

The card, formally known as the Veterans Identification Card (VIC), will have veterans' photos on the front and identify them as enrollees in the VA's health care system. The card includes the words “service connected” under the photo if the veteran has a service-connected disability.

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the nation. The Federal Trade Commission listed identity theft as the number one fraud reported by consumers in 2003. Requests from veterans and their congressional representatives were instrumental in bringing about these latest changes.

“The new VIC ensures the security of veterans' personal information as well as ensuring that only eligible veterans receive the benefits and services they’ve earned,” said Kristin Cunningham of the business office for VA's health care system.

Veterans should request the new card at their local medical center. Processing will take five to seven days once eligibility is verified. VA hopes to complete the conversion to the new, safer card by mid-November. The existing cards will remain valid until veterans receive their new cards.

Source: USDVA



VA Improves "My HealtheVet" Web Site

WASHINGTON – Harnessing the power of the Internet, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is improving its Web-based system for providing health care information to its patients.

Under the latest improvement to VA's "My HealtheVet" Web site, veterans will be able to update personal information and record medical data such as prescriptions.

“VA is committed to making it as easy as possible for veterans to take care of themselves,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. “Today, we are adding wellness reminders to this Web site. In the near future, we'll be adding other helpful features.”

A new capability now added to the site allows veterans to record their personal information and medical data – including emergency contacts, health care providers and insurance, prescriptions, tests and allergies – in a private, secure Internet environment. Eventually, veterans will be able to receive their medical records from VA online.

Another new feature will be a “Learn About” tab, which will lead veterans to a variety of topics in health education.

“My HealtheVet will give veterans easy access to their health information at the same time it protects their privacy,” said Dr. Robert Kolodner, VA's acting chief health information officer. “The new features will significantly expand the information veterans can record and share with anyone they choose – medical professionals, family members and others.”

Kolodner said My HealtheVet establishes a veteran-clinician partnership that will result in better-informed decision making and move veterans toward more proactive management of their health care.”

“The idea is to make it as easy as possible for veterans to take good care of themselves,” said Kolodner.

VA launched My HealtheVet on Veterans Day 2003. The site is located on the Internet at www.myhealth.va.gov.

Source: USDVA

Concurrent Receipt & Combat-Related Special Compensation Update

Concurrent Receipt is now 'Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay' (CRDP).

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2005 eliminated the 9 year phase-in for full concurrent receipt payments to eligible retirees rated at 100% disabled by the VA, as of January 1, 2005. However the 9-year phase-in schedule is still in effect for retirees with disabilities rated at 50% to 90% and Retirees that are deemed "Unemployable" by the VA.

CRDP is automatic. If you qualify you will automatically see an increase in your monthly retirement check.

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) provides military retirees a monthly compensation that replaces their VA disability offset. This means that qualified military retirees with 20 or more years of service that have "combat related" VA-rated disability will no longer have their military retirement pay reduced by the amount of their VA disability compensation. Instead they will receive both their full military retirement pay and their VA disability compensation. There is no phase in period for CRSC. Once a military retiree applies for CRSC and qualifies, they will receive their regular retirement pay plus an additional sum based on their VA disability rating.

In Washington State, veterans can call 1-800-562-2308 for assistance. Additional information is available at: www.crlegislation.com

State Legislative Update

The 2005 State Legislative Session, beginning on January 10, 2005, is a 105 day session.

The Washington State Department of Veterans requested and received approval from Governor Locke to pursue legislation establishing an Armed Forces License Plate. WDVA will work with members of the House and Senate to gain support for this proposal and will post updates on the WDVA web page.

Updates on bills pertaining to veterans are available in several formats:

- ◆ Sign up for the WDVA Listserv at www.dva.wa.gov ;
- ◆ Visit the WDVA Web Page under Legislature/RCW for regular updates throughout session; Or
- ◆ Contact Heidi Audette at (360) 725-2154 or e-mail at heidia@dva.wa.gov .

ARMED FORCES LICENSE PLATE PROPOSAL

Status:

- ◆ Over 11,300 sets of plates were signed for. THANK YOU!
- ◆ Signatures and other application requirements were submitted to the Special License Plate Review Board.
- ◆ Dec. 10, 2004 – The Special License Plate Review Board approved the Armed Forces License Plate Application and referred it to the 2005 Washington State Legislature.
- ◆ Jan. 10, 2004 – Armed Forces License Plate will be introduced in the House and Senate.
- ◆ Following legislative session – postcards or e-mails will be sent to those who signed signature forms, and those signed up for electronic Listserv, with information on whether the proposal was approved.
- ◆ Jan., 2006 – If the bill is passed by the 2005 legislature, plates will be available in January.

Cost:

- ◆ Similar to other Specialized Plates in Washington: In addition to other fees charged by Counties, \$40 to purchase and \$30 to renew each year.
- ◆ \$28 from each purchase and renewal goes toward programs and services for veterans.



Draft Design

Hats Off

Volunteers Spend Many Hours Supporting Specialty License Plate

Thank you to all who gathered signatures in support of the Armed Forces License Plate in the State of Washington! It would not have been possible to gather signatures for 10,000 sets plates without the help of a number of dedicated volunteers.

Volunteers like LeVern Sundet - A Korean War Veteran, LeVern spent a number of years talking to legislators about the need for special plates for veterans. This year he, and his wife Jean, spent several days at the Puyallup Fair gathering signatures. He also took signature sheets with him to meetings, to his neighbors, and everywhere else he went! Through the efforts of LeVern, and many other volunteers who collected signatures, we surpassed the goal and turned in signatures for over 11,300 sets of plates!



LeVern and his wife Jean, spent several days at the Puyallup Fair collecting signatures for the Specialty License Plate proposal.

FREE HAIRCUTS FOR VETERANS



Veterans Ken Pugh (L) and Don Foster took advantage of a free haircut offered Nov. 10 & 11th, at the Barber Shop & Co. in Olympia. Barbers Sandy Ligrani, Deana Morrison and Cathy Hawkins felt it was the least they could do to honor veterans over the holiday. They plan on offering free cuts to all veterans again next year.

Tacoma issues POW/MIA Proclamation



Each year, POW/MIAs are recognized and remembered on the third Friday in September. This year, the City of Tacoma made a special effort to honor these brave men and women, issuing a Proclamation acknowledging the duty of American citizens to pay tribute and remember.

It also reminded the citizens of Tacoma that many of their neighbors and colleagues are members of the largest American Ex-Prisoners of War Chapter in the State of Washington, calling them our country's greatest heroes.



National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans

Coming in February

The purpose of the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program is to:

- ♦ Pay tribute and express appreciation to hospitalized veterans,
- ♦ Increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical center, and
- ♦ Encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and to become involved as volunteers.

Each year, the week of February 14 is an opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women, more than 98,000 veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries, and nursing homes.

During the National Salute, VA invites individuals, veterans groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, local media, celebrities and sports stars to participate in a variety of activities at the VA medical centers. The activities and events include special ward visits and valentine distributions; photo opportunities; school essay contests; special recreation activities and veteran recognition programs.

The week also provides an opportunity for the community to become acquainted with the volunteer opportunities at each of Washington's State Veterans Homes.

To discover the wonderful things you, your group or organization can do to salute America's Heroes, please contact: Washington Veterans Home – Retsil Catherine Shaw- 360-895-4376 Washington Soldiers Home – Orting Lynn Zemke- 360-893-4511 Spokane Veterans Home – Spokane Shane Price -509-344-5788

Ft. Lewis Chapter Seeking Donations to Honor First Sergeants

Not everyone knows that the Lewis and Clark "Corps of Discovery" from 1803-1806 was a U.S. Army operation ordered by President Thomas Jefferson.

Under the command of Captain Meriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark, the Corps of Discovery was funded with \$2,500 and given the mission to explore the uncharted West.

As part of the 200th anniversary of the journey, a sculpture of Captain Lewis will be erected in the Fort Lewis Memorial Park to remind the public that the Washington State Army Post was named for the leader of the expedition.

The statue of Lewis will be joined by an equally larger-than-life bronze statue of First Sergeant John Ordway, in honor of his contribution to the success of the expedition.

As First Sergeant for Lewis and Clark, Ordway was credited with being the only member of the expedition to make a journal entry every day, making it possible for historians to recreate the infamous journey.

The Fort Lewis Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) wants to ensure that the importance of all First Sergeants, as well as First Sergeant Ordway, are given the recognition the position has earned throughout the history of the United States Army, and is currently accepting donations to purchase the statue and explanatory plaques.

To make a tax-deductible donation, send a check to the Fort Lewis Chapter, AUSA, PO Box 33181, Fort Lewis, WA 98433.

